

Comment of proposed cross-ownership of media.

I believe that the proposed rule making has not received an adequate review by those who will be impacted by the elimination of independent voices. Corporations are driven by efficiency and not necessarily by the needs of the people.

Many people use television to keep up with critical events. Unfortunately, many television corporations are in favor of this proposed rule change and they have not raised this issue and have not clearly identified the methods of providing information to the FCC so that the rule makers can get a balanced understanding of the potential impact of these changes.

The previously changed FCC rules that allow one corporation to own many radio stations, in a single service, area has proven to have a serious public safety impact. In one area, I believe it was Fargo ND, six of seven radio stations were owned by a single corporation. When the local public safety people tried to get an emergency warning released, no one could be found at the robotically operated stations to put out the alert.

There needs to be a full and complete public debate. Knowledgeable people on both sides of the issue need a public forum to advance their concerns and salient arguments so that the public can become informed. This will require a significant extension of the review process with a commitment, of those who will profit from these new rules, to support a public forum where all issues can be aired.

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